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BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Leicestershire



ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector

1957



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RURAL DISTRICT OF BLABY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

ANDREW C. ROSS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

together with the

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

JOHN J. GALSWORTHY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

for the

YEAR 1957

BLABY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Committee
(Appointed May 1957)

Mr. T. H. H. Potter
Chairman of Council
Chairman of Committee

Mr. G.W. Sharpe (Vice-Chairman of Committee)	Mr. J.W. Herrick
Mr. J.H. Bent	Mr. D.J. Holt
Mr. E.H. Brown	Mrs. O.M. Hunt
Mr. S. Callington	Mr. V.C. James
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Mr. K.A. Dalton	Mrs. D.K. Pope
Mrs. G.E. Frears	Mr. J. Snape
Mr. J.W. Glazebrook	Mr. F.H. Webb
Mr. F.M. Griffin	Mr. L. Wells
	Mr. H. Yates

Public Health Department

Officers and Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

Andrew C. Ross, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

John J. Galsworthy, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

A. J. Slipp, M.A.P.H.I. (Senior Assistant)

R. R. Blaylock, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector: P. J. Henze

Secretary: Mrs. M. O'Halloran

Shorthand Typist: Miss J. Mills

General Assistant and Rodent Operator: G. E. Hunt

To the Chairman and Members of
Blaby Rural District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year 1957. It is divided into two main sections, namely The Vital Statistics and The Infectious Diseases.

Our Vital Statistics again present a satisfactory position, our Infantile Mortality Rate this year being the second lowest recorded since 1935. Our Birth Rate is the highest since 1947.

As regards infectious diseases, I have commented elsewhere in this Report. Two features stand out however; one the epidemic of measles and the other the low incidence of dysentery.

I wish to thank the staff of the Health Department for assisting me in the compilation of this Report, and also to express my appreciation of the consideration and help of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee during this year.

I am Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

Andrew C. Ross,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	385	334	719
Illegitimate	9	9	18
Totals	394	343	737

BIRTH RATE

17.3 per 1,000 estimated population

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
15.3	14.8	14.2	14.5	15.8	13.9	17.1	20.2	20.6	16.4	19.3

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
19.4	17.2	16.7	14.9	14.8	14.3	13.5	13.0	14.9	14.3	17.3

The Birth Rate of 17.3 per 1,000 population represents an increase on the previous years figure of 14.3. There were 737 total births in 1957 against the corresponding figure of 600 in 1954 - an increase of 137.

The live Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1957 per 1,000 population was 16.1. This is the highest figure for England and Wales since 1949.

DEATHS

Deaths from all causes	Males	Females	Total
	254	257	511

DEATH RATE

11.8 per 1,000 estimated population

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
8.6	9.6	8.1	9.0	10.2	9.2	8.9	10.6	9.9	9.5	10.9

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
10.2	9.2	9.9	9.5	10.0	8.5	10.6	10.9	12.8	10.7	11.8

The Crude Death Rate of 11.8 per 1,000 population is slightly in excess of last years figure of 10.7. In general looking back over 20 years the Death Rate varies only slightly from year to year.

The commonest causes of death were:-

	<u>Total</u>
1) Cancer 74
2) Diseases of the heart and circulation 207
3) Vascular lesions of the nervous system 87

Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 4 deaths. They were responsible for 8 in 1956.

There was one death from pregnancy.

DEATHS PER MONTH OVER FOUR YEARS

The accompanying table shows the number of deaths occurring in the months of the year. Looking at the figures for the previous four years it is evident that considerable variation occurs from year to year in a particular month.

MONTH	1957	1956	1955	1954
January	57	34	60	37
February	37	53	44	52
March	37	60	49	52
April	34	37	43	30
May	39	34	49	33
June	34	41	38	33
July	33	35	35	41
August	32	28	34	26
September	43	37	25	30
October	47	45	36	23
November	45	41	54	31
December	73	41	48	46

CANCER MORTALITY RATE

The figure for this year is 1.7 per 1,000 population, representing a slight increase over the last years figure. There were 74 deaths from cancer this year in a population of 42,640. Last years figure (1956) was 63 deaths from cancer in a population of 41,200.

Cancer of the bronchus and lung accounted for 8 deaths in 1957.

Cancer Mortality Rate (all forms)
taken in triennial periods

1928 - 30	1.1	1943 - 45	1.6
1931 - 33	1.3	1946 - 48	1.6
1934 - 36	1.4	1949 - 51	1.8
1937 - 39	1.4	1952 - 54	1.6
1940 - 42	1.4	1955 - 57	1.5

Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	1	7
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	6	1	7

Infant Mortality Rate

15.7 per 1,000 live births

Our Infantile Mortality rate of 15.7 in Blaby R.D.C. is the second lowest recorded since 1935, as can be seen from the table.

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
27	46	25	30	40	43	50	28	34	36	34

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
43	27	29	29	27	25	26	25	15	25	16

Infant Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	-	-	0
Totals	4	1	5

Neonatal Death Rate

10.3 per 1,000 live births

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Totals	2	2	4

Still Birth Rate

14.0 per 1,000 (live & still) births

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
35	33	15	22	30	27	11	28	20	10	14

Still Birth Rate England and Wales 22.4 per 1,000 births (live & still).

Infant Deaths

There were 12 deaths under 1 year and of these 8 died in the first four weeks of life.

The causes of infant mortality are set out below:-

Under Four Weeks

Congenital Heart Disease	2
Prematurity	2
Birth Injury	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis	3

Four Weeks to Twelve Months

Congenital Hydrocephalus	1
Acute Pulmonary Oedema	1
Acute Streptococcal tracheo-bronchitis	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1

The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1957 was 23.0 per 1,000 live births.

GENERAL STATISTICS - 1957

Area of District	32,583 acres
Population (Estimated Mid-Year)	42,640
Number of Occupied Houses	14,553

Age Incidence of Death

By looking at the following table, it will be seen that:-

- 1) Between the ages of 65 years and 84 years there were 349 deaths - over half of the total number of deaths.
- 2) 68.89% of those who died exceeded the age of 65 years.

	Males	Females	Totals	Percentage
Under 4 weeks	5	1	6	1.1
4 weeks - 1 year	0	3	3	0.58
1 - 4 years	3	3	6	1.1
5 - 14 "	0	2	2	0.39
15 - 24 "	3	2	5	0.9
25 - 34 "	2	1	3	0.58
35 - 44 "	3	6	9	1.7
45 - 54 "	20	11	31	6.06
55 - 64 "	52	41	93	18.19
65 - 74 "	68	63	131	25.63
75 - 84 "	73	87	160	31.13
85 - 94 "	25	33	58	11.35
95 - 100 "	0	4	4	0.78

Increase of Births over Deaths

1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
206	166	203	188	198	170	294	340	381	243	360

1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
342	306	265	227	187	228	114	82	82	43	226

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Total number of cases of Infectious Diseases
notified during the Year 1957

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified at Ages									TOTAL DEATHS
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1- 5 yrs	5- 15 yrs	15- 25 yrs	25- 45 yrs	45- 65 yrs	65 & up- wards		
Scarlet Fever	21	-	4	16	1	-	-	-	-	0
Whooping Cough	114	8	46	58	-	2	-	-	-	0
Diphtheria	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Measles	376	9	171	195	-	1	-	-	-	0
Pneumonia	36	1	2	-	5	9	15	4	26	
Meningococcal Infection	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Poliomyelitis	3	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	0
Dysentery	4	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	0
Enteric Fever	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Food Poisoning	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	0	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15	-	-	1	6	3	5	-	4	
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	0	

Notifications of Infectious Disease for the Year 1957

PARISH	Scar-	Whoop-	Measles	Pneu-	Polio-	Dysen-	Puer-	Pul-	Other	Meningitis	TOTAL
	let	Fever	Cough	monia	myeli-	tery	peral	Erysip-	mony	T.B.	
Aston)	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Flamville)	-	2	11	8	1	2	2	-	1	-	26
Blaby	1	32	92	1	2	-	-	-	2	-	136
Braunstone	5	30	4	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	44
Cosby	-	5	13	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	25
Countesthorpe	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Croft	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Elmesthorpe	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22
Enderby	-	8	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	111
Glenfield	1	1	103	1	-	2	-	2	-	1	31
Glen Parva	-	1	25	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	5
Huncote	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Kilby	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	52
Kirby Muxloe	-	2	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Leicester)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Forest West)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53
Lubbesthorpe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Narborough	4	20	26	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Potters)	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
Marston)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Sapcote	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Sharnford	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Stoney Stanton	5	-	21	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Thurlaston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Whetstone	4	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0
Wigston Parva	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	22	116	376	37	3	4	3	-	4	15	3
											583

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

Average per Year in Triennial Periods

	1934 -	1937 -	1940 -	1943 -	1946 -	1949 -	1952 -	1955 -
	1936	1939	1942	1945	1948	1951	1954	1957
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	142	44	90	97	70	44	34	15
Whooping Cough	-	-	101	74	131	164	111	87
Diphtheria	36	27	42	13	5	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	485	393	216	525	232	540
Pneumonia	10	12	24	20	27	30	46	46
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	5	5	4	0.7	0.7	-
Poliomyelitis	0.7	1	0.7	0.3	2	9	1.3	1.3
Dysentery	-	-	8	4	3	36	40	50
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0.7	1	0.7	-	0.3	0.3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	3	5	3	2	0.7	1	3
Enteric Fever	1	0.3	2	1	0.7	0.3	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	2
Erysipelas	12	11	12	13	7	6	6	2.3

The total incidence of infectious diseases was higher this year largely due to the higher incidence of measles.

There were only four notified cases of dysentery. This is the approximate figure we were getting in the years 1946 to 1948; in recent years, apart from this one, the incidence has been much higher. For example:-

1954	77 cases
1955	33 cases
1956	115 cases

Whether in Blaby R.D.C. we are going to achieve better figures in the future in the incidence of dysentery is difficult to say. This low figure in 1957 is at least a pointer in the right direction.

Poliomyelitis Cases - three occurred in the year.

- 1) The first case was in an adult of 35 years living in Braunstone. It was diagnosed as Paralytic Poliomyelitis. His wife developed similar symptoms at the same time and was admitted to hospital. The diagnosis proved to be Influenza.
- 2) The second case occurred in a child of 2 years of age living in Blaby. The final diagnosis was Non-Paralytic Poliomyelitis.
- 3) The third case occurred in a housewife of 29 years of age living in Braunstone. The diagnosis proved to be paralytic Poliomyelitis.

Poliomyelitis immunisation was performed on a selected age group of children during the year. A good response was obtained for the Blaby area.

Tuberculosis

It is worthy of notice that there were 15 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified this year as against 18 cases in 1956. There were 3 notified cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1957. There is no doubt that the increased facilities for early diagnosis is partly responsible for the persistent high notification rate.

Looking at past records we find 37 cases of pulmonary Tuberculosis notified in 1928 and 9 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis. It can be seen we have improved on the incidence of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis but there can be no relaxation of effort against the present incidence of pulmonary Tuberculosis.

It has to be remembered when comparing the total number of notifications from year to year that the population has been steadily increasing and therefore there is an increasing number of individuals at risk each succeeding year.

The cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis were:-

- 1) Tuberculosis of Cervical Glands
- 2) Tuberculosis Tenosynovitis (left wrist)
- 3) Tuberculosis of the Fallopian tubes.

Total Cases of Tuberculosis
remaining on Register

	Pulmonary		Other Forms of Tuberculosis	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Total on Register at 31st December 1957	147	126	24	16

B.C.G. Vaccination

This was given to selected groups of school children this year between the ages of 13-14 years at Enderby Secondary Modern School.

Immunisation against Diphtheria

	Primary			Re-immunised	Number of babies born during preceding year minus deaths under 1 year.
	Under 5 years	5-14 yrs.	Total		
1949	510	28	538	373	639
1950	423	37	460	263	623
1951	461	11	472	403	573
1952	462	35	497	343	567
1953	364	21	385	370	553
1954	415	40	455	370	523
1955	408	25	433	377	503
1956	480	6	486	330	587
1957	401	20	421	264	585

To obtain an idea of the number of children immunised, a rough and ready way is to compare the number of primary immunisation done under 5 years of age (these are performed between 6 months to 1 year) with the total number of live births for the preceding year. It can be seen that out of 585 babies born in 1956 approximately 401 were immunised. This only gives a general indication of the numbers being immunised.

FOOD POISONING

An outbreak of suspected food poisoning occurred among the staff employed in the canteen of a large works in the District.

Seven people developed symptoms of food poisoning, all of whom partook of a separate meal in the canteen.

Investigations were carried out and the causal organism was eventually discovered to be Clostridium Welchii, a heat resisting anaerobe.

This was suspected to be present in a leg of imported lamb which was pre-cooked and re-heated the following day before being eaten.

Following this outbreak, the opportunity was taken for a talk to be given, together with a film show, to the employees of the canteen on Food Hygiene, and the precautions to be taken in the preparation of food, and cleansing of equipment.

Death Rates relating to all forms of Tuberculosis

(With comparative figures for England & Wales)

Rates per 1,000 population

Year	Esti- mated Popu- lation	Total No. of Notifi- cations	Notifi- cation Rate	Total No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate England & Wales
1935	27,100	31	1.14	19	0.70	0.70
1936	31,080	24	0.80	15	0.50	0.54
1937	32,230	32	0.90	14	0.43	0.67
1938	33,090	20	0.60	7	0.21	0.62
1939	34,290	25	0.73	18	0.52	0.41
1940	34,180	32	0.94	17	0.50	0.67
1941	36,300	51	1.40	15	0.70	0.70
1942	35,740	54	1.51	17	0.48	0.61
1943	35,470	38	1.07	23	0.65	0.61
1944	35,520	42	1.18	13	0.37	0.57
1945	35,180	21	0.60	14	0.40	0.44
1946	37,460	22	0.59	21	0.56	0.53
1947	37,170	25	0.67	10	0.27	0.54
1948	38,050	30	0.79	11	0.29	0.28
1949	38,360	37	0.96	11	0.29	0.45
1950	39,130	25	0.64	10	0.26	0.36
1951	39,520	33	0.84	12	0.31	0.27
1952	39,750	35	0.88	10	0.25	0.24
1953	39,810	33	0.83	8	0.20	0.20
1954	39,800	24	0.60	4	0.10	0.13
1955	40,150	35	0.87	3	0.07	0.15
1956	41,200	20	0.48	5	0.12	0.12
1957	42,640	18	0.42	4	0.09	0.11

DEATH FROM ALL CAUSES

	1957		
	Males	Females	Total
1.Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	1	4
2.Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3.Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4.Diphtheria	0	0	0
5.Whooping Cough	0	0	0
6.Meningococcal infections	0	0	0
7.Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8.Measles	0	0	0
9.Other infective & parasitic diseases	0	2	2
10.Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	7	13
11.Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	8	0	8
12.Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	8	8
13.Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	5	5
14.Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	24	16	40
15.Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16.Diabetes	1	4	5
17.Vascular lesions of nervous system	39	48	87
18.Coronary disease, angina	34	23	57
19.Hypertension with heart disease	12	8	20
20.Other heart disease	44	62	106
21.Other circulatory disease	8	16	24
22.Influenza	1	1	2
23.Pneumonia	15	11	26
24.Bronchitis	13	7	20
25.Other diseases of respiratory system	4	1	5
26.Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	5	9
27.Gastritis, enteritis & diarrhoea	3	1	4
28.Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
29.Hyperplasia of prostate	6	0	6
30.Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	1	1
31.Congenital malformations	5	3	8
32.Other defined & ill-defined diseases	13	19	32
33.Motor vehicle accidents	3	1	4
34.All other accidents	6	3	9
35.Suicide	0	2	2
36.Homicide & operations of war	0	0	0
TOTAL	254	257	511

REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR

1957

To the Chairman and Members
of Blaby Rural District Council.

Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

By virtue of his appointment and office, the Public Health Inspector is charged with the safeguarding of environmental health, food and water supply, and each year to make a return on the sanitary circumstances of the District.

I therefore have pleasure in presenting this, my fifteenth Annual Report, on the general conditions prevailing in the Blaby Rural District, the work carried out to bring about improvements, and include some comments on the problems encountered in the technical side of public health administration.

This Report, together with the Reports given monthly to both the Public Health and Housing and Planning Committees gives some indication of the activities of the Public Health Department, but much of the work carried out involves the application of good relationship and is accomplished without recourse to report or statutory action.

The administration of The Rent Act in particular necessitates the Public Health Inspector to maintain a balance between the wishes of the tenant and the obligations of the landlord; very often he has to act as mediator between neighbours when dealing with complaints, considerable amount of persuasion is required to influence people to spend money in the improvement of premises, and above all, he has to form his opinions and exercise his judgement without prejudice or diffidence in carrying out his duties with regard to housing and food inspection in the interests of sound public health administration on behalf of the Council and the public he serves.

Fresh problems arise every year, but at the end of the year, in the Annual Report, an assessment is made of the position; this year I am pleased to be able to report that progress has been maintained and the sanitary circumstances of the District further improved.

In submitting this Report, once again I desire to express my appreciation for the confidence and interest accorded by the Chairman and Members of the Council, my indebtedness to the Chief and other Officers for their co-operation and my thanks to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their loyal and willing assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Madam Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

John J. Galsworthy,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

1. WATER SUPPLYMains Water Supplies

There are three separate Water Authorities providing mains water supplies in the Blaby Rural District, and with the exception of the rural and sparsely populated parish of Leicester Forest West, the remaining twenty-two parishes all have piped water supply.

Parish	Water Supply Authority
Braunstone	
Blaby	
Cosby	
Countesthorpe	
Enderby	
Glenfield	
Glen Parva	Leicester Corporation
Huncote	
Kilby	
Kirby Muxloe	
Narborough	
Whetstone	
Lubbesthorpe (Part)	
Thurlaston	Leicester Corporation under agreement with Blaby R.D.C.
Stoney Stanton	
Sapcote	
Sharnford	Blaby R.D.C.
Elmesthorpe	
Wigston Parva	
Aston Flamville	
Croft	The Croft Granite Brick & Concrete Co.Ltd.
Potters Marston (Part)	The Croft Granite Brick & Concrete Co.Ltd., under agreement with Blaby R.D.C.

The water supply undertaking of the Council is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

A firm, with a factory manufacturing concrete products in the parish of Potters Marston obtains its own piped water supply from a quarry source.

Quality of Mains Water Supplies

Samples of water are regularly taken from piped supplies in the District and submitted to both chemical and bacteriological examination.

The supplies to the Southern parishes by the Blaby R.D.C. and to Croft parish by the Croft Granite Company are both drawn from quarry sources and such waters are extremely hard.

By reason of filtration and chlorination these waters are rendered bacteriologically fit for drinking and dietetic purposes, but the excessive hardness makes the waters not particularly suitable for domestic purposes difficulty being experienced in obtaining a lather for washing, and the deposit of calcium and magnesium carbonate causes the 'furring-up' of hot water systems.

None of the waters supplied in the District has any plumbago-solvent action.

Examination of Piped Water Supplies - 1957

Examination	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Bacteriological	22	22	0
Chemical	22	20	2 *

* Excessive alkalinity

Analysis of Mains Water Samples - 1957

	Leicester Corporation Supply	Blaby R.D.C. Supply	Croft Granite Company Supply
	Parts per Million		
Total Solids	200	1120	2200
Loss on ignition	30	200	400
Free Ammonia	0	0	0
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.04	0.04	0.05
Nitrogen	0.05	0.4	0.5
Oxygen consumed in 4 hours	0.62	0.334	0.488
Chlorine	16.0	34.0	60.0
Hardness	40.0	600	1020
pH	8.0	8.0	8.0
Lead and Copper	Absent	Absent	Absent
Bacillus Coli	Absent in 10.cc's	Absent in 10 cc's	Absent in 10 cc's

Future Supply

The Council is a Constituent Member of the River Dove Water Board and when such supply of water is available, a bulk supply is to be taken for the six parishes in the Southern area and this will enable the existing quarry source at Stoney Stanton to be abandoned.

Extension of Piped Supplies

During the year a 3" diameter water main was laid under the supervision of the Engineers' Department from Croft to provide a supply to a group of six houses in the parish of Potters Marston, which were formerly relying on polluted well water supply.

Piped water supply was taken into 38 houses, substituting former supply from wells.

Well Water Supply

Throughout the District there remain 201 properties still relying on well water supply, many of these being premises situated some considerable distance away from the nearest water main.

A private scheme is under consideration for the supply of piped water to a group of 4 houses situated on the edge of the District in Elmesthorpe parish.

Consideration has been given to the extension of the water main along Hinckley Road to provide piped water supply to various premises in the parish of Leicester Forest West, but as such a scheme must be uneconomical it has not materialised.

Examination of Well Water 1957

Samples Satisfactory		Samples Not Satisfactory	
Chemical	Bacteriological	Chemical	Bacteriological
-	1	-	6

Eleven polluted wells were closed and mains water supply substituted.

The following tables indicate the present water supply position in the District and in the various parishes, as at 31st December 1957.

WATER SUPPLY FROM MAINS				WATER SUPPLY FROM WELLS		
Approximate No. of Houses		Estimated Population		Approx- imate No. of Houses	Estimated Popu- lation	
14,352		42,036				
Direct Supply to House	By Stand-pipes	Direct Supply to House	By Stand-pipes	201	604	
14,183	169	41,539	497			

PARISH	No. of Occupied Premises	Estimated Population	No. of Houses on Mains Supply	No. of Houses with water Direct to House	No. of Houses Served by Stand-pipes	No. of Houses Served by Wells
Aston Flamville	41	131	35	35	-	6
Blaby	1,135	3,197	1,130	1,118	12	5
Braunstone	3,418	9,849	3,418	3,418	-	-
Cosby	559	1,556	547	541	6	12
Countesthorpe	713	2,194	712	702	10	1
Croft	359	996	356	306	50	3
Elmesthorpe	101	392	95	95	-	6
Enderby	1,346	4,057	1,343	1,332	11	3
Glenfields	1,507	4,144	1,507	1,497	10	-
Glen Parva	1,329	3,465	1,327	1,327	-	2
Huncote	240	554	225	223	2	15
Kilby	78	259	63	60	3	15
Kirby Muxloe	1,166	3,220	1,160	1,160	-	6
Leicester)						
Forest West)	13	47	2	2	-	11
Lubbesthorpe	29	80	21	21	-	8
Narborough	830	3,533	824	824	-	6
Potters Marston	12	49	8	8	-	4
Sapcote	303	832	293	293	-	10
Sharnford	203	630	198	198	-	5
Stoney Stanton	476	1,439	474	445	29	2
Thurlaston	146	445	80	80	-	66
Whetstone	532	1,523	523	490	23	9
Wigston Parva	17	48	11	8	3	6
TOTAL	14,553	42,640	14,352	14,183	169	201

With the exception of the small hamlets of Wigston Parva and Aston Flamville all the villages in the District are now provided with main sewerage.

The sewage from the eighteen sewered parishes is treated at eleven sewage disposal works.

Braunstone
Whetstone and Blaby
Narborough and Cosby
Countesthorpe
Croft, Huncote and Thurlaston
Enderby
Glenfields
Glen Parva
Kirby Muxloe
Stoney Stanton, Sapcote, Sharnford
& Elmesthorpe
Kilby

A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Wigston Parva has been prepared by the Engineer and Surveyor and approved by the Council, and it is hoped that circumstances will enable the work to be commenced in the coming year.

Although all the sewage disposal works are of modern design, the rapid growth of some of the parishes in the District due to the development of new housing estates and industrial concerns has necessitated consideration being given to the enlargement of several of the works.

Accordingly schemes prepared by the Engineer's Department for the extension of the works at Braunstone, Glenfields, Narborough and Countesthorpe have been approved by the Ministry.

Due principally to the provision of sewers in Elmesthorpe parish, 32 cesspools were abolished in the District during the year.

In connection with complaints received, re-drainage of premises and closet conversions, 121 obstructed drains were cleared, 53 drains smoke tested, 155 colour tested and 226 opened up for examination.

Pail Closet Conversions

The abolition of pail closets must rank as one of the principal steps in the improvement of the sanitary circumstances of the District, and steady progress has been maintained over the past twelve years towards this end.

Since 1945, approximately 2,000 pails have been abolished leaving approximately 600 pails in the District, 420 of which still remain to be converted to water closets with drainage to public sewers.

Under the provisions of Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936, the Council may compel such conversions to be made, but in taking such action, are required to pay one half the cost of such work, alternatively, where an owner proposes to make a conversion the Council may make a contribution towards the cost, of a sum not exceeding one half the cost of the work.

Over the past years owners have been requested to make such conversions, the Council limiting the amount of contribution to a maximum grant of £7. 10s. Od per conversion, which was increased to £12. 10s. Od in 1957.

During 1957, 104 pail closets were converted to water closets, and a further 48 pails abolished at unfit houses which were either closed or demolished by action taken under the Housing Act, giving a total of 152 pail closets abolished during the year.

Applications for contributions towards the cost of 169 proposed conversions were received and approved for grant in 1957.

An indication of the present position of pail closets in the various parishes and the possibility of future conversions is shown in the following table:-

PARISH	No. of Houses with Pail Closets	No. of such Houses with Sewer Available	No. of Pails at Houses Scheduled for Demolition	Total No. of Pails for Conversion
Aston Flamville	15	-	-	-
Blaby	31	23	5	18
Braunstone	-	-	-	-
Cosby	25	19	1	18
Countesthorpe	31	30	4	26
Croft	62	62	-	62
Elmesthorpe	4	-	-	-
Enderby	27	19	12	7
Glenfields	36	16	4	12
Glen Parva	2	2	-	2
Huncote	23	12	5	7
Kilby	38	33	3	30
Kirby Muxloe	10	5	-	5
Leicester F.West	5	-	-	-
Lubbesthorpe	6	-	-	-
Narborough	14	6	3	3
Potters Marston	4	-	-	-
Sapcote	18	10	-	10
Sharnford	15	10	-	10
Stoney Stanton	67	54	5	49
Thurlaston	63	59	6	53
Whetstone	80	60	5	55
Wigston Parva	10	-	-	-
TOTAL	586	420	53	367

Pail closets throughout the District are emptied weekly by the Cleansing Department and contents disposed of mainly in an area at the refuse tip at Thurlaston, and occasionally by discharge into foul sewers at suitable manholes.

Sanitary Accommodation in Schools

During 1957, the sanitary accommodation at Thurlaston C. of E. Schools was greatly improved by the replacement of pail closets by water closets.

It is therefore most pleasing to be able to report that every school in the Blaby Rural District is now provided with proper water closet accommodation.

3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Cleansing Department which deals with the emptying of pail-closets, cesspools and the collection and disposal of refuse is under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor.

House refuse is collected weekly from every parish in the District and disposed of by controlled tipping at the centrally situated tip at Thurlaston.

4. INSPECTION OF PREMISES

The number of complaints received and recorded in the Register during the year was 236. Defects or nuisances totalling 660 were dealt with at 319 premises.

Notices

Preliminary or Informal

	Public Health	Housing
Outstanding on 1st January	294	41
Issued during year	255	19
Complied with during year	359	31
Statutory Action necessary	-	1
Outstanding 31st December	190	29

Total Informal Notices issued 274

Total Informal Notices complied with 390

Statutory or Formal

	Public Health	Housing
Outstanding on 1st January	0	0
Issued during year	0	1 <i>b</i>
Complied with during year	0	1
Outstanding 31st December	0	0

b Not including 25 Statutory Notices issued under Section 16 Housing Act, 1957 in respect of Individual Unfit Houses.

Inspections and Revisits

Bakehouses	21
Dairies	92
Drainage Work	2,436
Dwelling Houses	1,315
Factories and Workplaces	71
Food Premises	547
Infectious Disease Enquiries	271
Food Poisoning Enquiries	23
Keeping of Animals	10
Piggeries	14
Movable Dwellings	66
Refuse and Accumulations	44
Rodent Infestation	127 (excluding visits by Rodent Operative)
Schools	10
Shops	10
Slaughterhouses (meat inspection)	1,366
Smoke complaints	20
Verminous and dirty premises	24
Water Supplies	118
Water Courses and Ditches	29
Storage of Petroleum	13
Unclassified	172
	6,799
Rodent Control	4,236
	11,035

5. SHOPS

The provisions of Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950 are enforceable by the Council.

This section provides for the health and comfort of workers in shops, and relates specifically to:-

Sanitary Accommodation
Temperature
Ventilation
Washing Facilities
Lighting
Facilities for taking meals

Although there are 331 shops in the District, the great majority are small family businesses, employing no shop assistants, to which the provisions of this Section of the Act do not apply.

One Notice was issued requiring the provision of adequate washing facilities.

6. UNCLEAN OR VERMINOUS PREMISES

No evidence of any infestation by bugs was found in any premises, but one house was treated for the eradication of fleas.

One informal notice was sent to an occupier requiring the house to be cleaned up.

Assistance was given to occupiers of two houses for the destruction of wasps' nests in the roof spaces.

7. SMOKE CONTROL

Certain sections of The Clean Air Act 1956 were in force during 1957, but the Act will not come fully into operation until 1st June 1958.

The Council by the installation of approved solid fuel firegrates in Council houses, and by adopting a Building Byelaw requiring the fitting of approved types of grates in all houses to be erected in the District, kept abreast with the operative Sections of the Act.

Being a Rural District with no great smoke problems, the matter of declaring any part of the District to be a Smoke Control Area has not yet been considered, but the time may come when such consideration may be necessary, particularly in respect of newly developed estates contiguous to the boundary of the City of Leicester.

Complaints were received in respect of excessive smoke emission from stacks at three industrial premises during the year.

At one premises, where a vertical boiler is operated, a change over to smokeless fuel was effected, in another the provision of secondary air jets over the furnace of a water-tube boiler brought about the required improvement, and in the other case the existing boiler plant was closed down and temporary heating arrangements provided pending the installation of an improved heating plant.

There are still several hand-fired boilers in the District, and where the fireman has other duties to perform, very often regular and correct stoking methods are not carried out, with the result that dark smoke is emitted from the stacks over certain periods. The full implementation of the Clean Air Act in 1958, will necessitate improved methods of firing at these particular premises.

Another problem is the tendency of certain firms to use their boiler furnaces for the incineration of waste materials; unless carefully fired, the burning of such materials can create excessive smoke and fumes.

Fumes from a works using chemical processes caused great annoyance and nuisance to near-by residents. The development of such business near a residential area resulted in an Inquiry being held under the Town and Country Planning Acts. The discontinuance of the particular chemical processes, the de-greasing and reconditioning of petrol jerry-cans, removed all grounds for complaint in this direction.

8. RODENT CONTROL

For the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, the Council maintains a Rodent Destruction Service, employing a Rodent Operator provided with a fully equipped light van.

Treatment for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings is carried out free of charge as a public service, but full charges are made for work on all other types of premises.

All premises and lands owned by the Council are regularly inspected and treated against rodent infestation.

Inspection of Premises

<u>Description of Premises</u>	<u>Total Visits</u>
1. Private dwelling-houses	3,729
2. Business Premises	141
3. Farm and Agricultural Premises	78
4. Council Premises	102
5. Refuse Tips	18
6. Sewage Works	168
	<hr/>
Total Visits	4,236

Surface Treatments 1957

	Council Premises	Private Dwellings	Agri-cultural Premises	Business or other Premises	Total
Complaints received	0	76	2	8	86
Premises inspected	26	3,135	72	71	3304
Infe- stat- tions	Major*	0	0	0	0
	Minor	13	177	5	18
Found	Mice	2	12	0	10
Premises treated	15	189	2	28	234
Bodies Found	337	135	9	31	512

* An infestation estimated to exceed ten rats is classed as a Major Infestation.

Although more inspections and surveys were made this year than in previous years, the number of premises found to be infested was much the same as in the preceding year.

This would appear to indicate that rat infestation in the District is now being controlled to a constant low level.

The refuse tip and the eleven sewage disposal works of the Council, by reason of situation and the waste matters disposed of, provide great attraction for rats.

Accordingly these premises are regularly inspected, and treated at appropriate times for the destruction of the rodents.

Sewer Treatments

The foul sewers in the various parishes in the District are regularly test-baited, and treated where necessary for rodent destruction by baiting in the manholes.

Sewer Treatment M1/57

	Total No. of Manholes	Manholes Baited	Manholes Bait Taken
BLABY	89	17	3
BRAUNSTONE	350	0	-
COSBY	63	14	2
COUNTESTHORPE	100	17	4
CROFT	58	15	4
ENDERBY	128	15	2
GLENFIELD	167	13	0
GLEN PARVA	86	19	2
HUNCOTE	32	0	-
KILBY	10	8	6
KIRBY MUXLOE	144	0	-
NARBOROUGH (including Littlethorpe)	71	22	3
SAPCOTE	66	10	3
SHARNFORD	46	10	1
STONEY STANTON	94	0	-
THURLASTON	12	11	0
WHETSTONE	50	10	0
TOTAL	1,566	181	30

Sewer treatments carried out over the past several years have shown a higher degree of infestation in Winter than in Summer; accordingly the sewers were treated in 1957 during the months of November and December.

Only certain sections of sewers appear to be subject to frequent infestation, particularly old sections, and sections near to storm water overflows. These particular sections are fully baited, the remaining sections being test-baited in approximately one manhole in every ten.

On the occasion of this treatment, the sewers in the parishes of Braunstone, Huncote, Kirby Muxloe and Stoney Stanton were not baited, having been found free from infestation at the previous treatment. A test bait was made on the sewers in Glenfield and no infestation was again found.

INSPECTION OF FOOD SUPPLY

9. MILK SUPPLY

Dairies and Distribution

There are 11 registered dairies in the District to which 40 visits were made during the year. Satisfactory conditions were maintained in all premises.

The Blaby Rural District is a Specified Area, wherein only Designated Milks - Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilised may be sold, and such milks only in bottles.

Milk is pasteurised in carefully supervised plants in three of the dairies in the District.

The number of Distributors on the Register at the end of the year was:-

Producer-Retailers (milk produced in District)	5
Distributors (from premises in District)	13
Distributors (from premises outside District)	12
Total	30

Milk Licences

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949, the Council issued the following licences:-

Dealers' Licences

Tuberculin Tested	- 15 (Raw Milk Regulations)
Pasteurised	- 18 (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk Regulations)
Sterilised	- 10 (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk Regulations)

Supplementary Licences

To Distributors retailing milk in the Blaby Rural District from premises outside the District.

Tuberculin Tested - 10 (Raw Milk Regulations)

Pasteurised - 13 (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk Regulations)

Sterilised - 8 (Pasteurised & Sterilised Milk Regulations)

Milk Samples

Samples of milk are regularly taken from milk supplies in the District and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk Samples 1957

	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory
Designated { Tuberculin { Tested	20	20	0
	35	35	0
TOTALS	55	55 100%	0

Biological Examination of Milk Samples

Samples of milk are regularly taken from T.T. milk supplies, both produced and retailed in the District, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for biological examination, to determine if any of the supplies are infected with M.Tuberculosis or Brucella Abortus.

Twenty-one samples were taken during the year and all found to be free from infection.

10. ICECREAM

No icecream is now manufactured in the District, but 101 premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed icecream.

Samples of icecream are taken when available throughout the year, but principally during the Summer months, and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination.

At the Laboratory the samples are prepared and subjected to the Methylene Blue Reaction Test and graded into provisional grades varying from 1 to 4.

It is generally accepted that samples in provisional Grades 1 and 2 may be considered to be satisfactory and samples in Grades 3 and 4 unsatisfactory.

Owing to the numerous factors governing the hygienic quality of icecream, it is unwise to pay too much attention to the bacteriological results on any single sample. Judgement should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that over a six-monthly period 50 per cent of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

Samples

Samples Taken	Satisfactory		Unsatisfactory	
	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
131	113	17	1	0
	130 (99%)		1 (1%)	

In addition 7 samples of Ice-Lollies were taken for examination - all were Satisfactory.

11. MEAT INSPECTION

For the purpose of meat inspection, 1,354 visits were made to the 12 licensed slaughterhouses in the District where 7,760 animals were slaughtered during the year.

The small amount of meat condemned gives an indication of the general good quality of the meat supply in the District.

Although careful examination was made during the inspection of beasts' carcases and hearts in accordance with the recommendations of Memo 3/Meat issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food, no evidence of Cysticercous Bovis was found.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle exclu- ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total Weight in lbs.
Number killed	1154	4	33	5394	1175	
Number inspected	1154	4	33	5394	1175	
<u>All Diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcase condemned	0	0	0	1	1	165
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	159	0	0	48	22	2126
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis & cysticerci	14%	-	-	1%	2%	
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcases condemned	0	0	0	0	0	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54	0	0	0	28	1647
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5%	0	0	0	2%	
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	0	
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	0	0	0	0	0	
Generalised and totally condemned	0	0	0	0	0	

Condemned Meat - Reason for CondemnationTuberculosis

Part or Offal	Bull-ocks	Heif-ers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Heads & Tongues	19	9	-	-	-	30
Lungs	11	11	-	-	-	-
Plucks	-	-	-	-	-	5
Livers	4	3	-	-	-	1
Mesenteries	2	3	-	-	-	3
Stomachs	-	-	-	-	-	-

Other Diseases

Part or Offal	Bull-ocks	Heif-ers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Carcase & Offal (Oedema)	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcase & Offal (Swine Erysipelas)	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hindquarters (Bruising)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Forequarters (Bruising)	1	-	-	-	-	-
Shoulder (abcess)	-	-	-	-	1	-
Shoulder (Bruising)	-	-	-	-	1	-
Leg (abcess)	-	-	-	-	1	1
<u>Heads & Tongues</u>						
Abcesses	-	1	-	-	-	-
Actinomycosis	-	1	-	-	-	-
<u>Lungs</u>						
Abcesses	-	2	-	-	-	-
Pleurisy	-	-	-	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	16
Parasites	-	-	-	-	4	-
<u>Livers</u>						
Abcesses	9	8	-	-	1	-
Cavernous Angioma	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cirrhosis	21	25	-	-	-	-
Fascioliasis	39	32	-	-	8	-
Parasitic	-	-	-	-	34	-

12. OTHER FOODS INSPECTION

The opinion of the Public Health Inspector is often asked for by shop-keepers, canteen managers and other people dealing with food, as to whether or not certain foodstuffs are fit for consumption. Occasionally it is found that the particular article of food, although not unfit, is by its condition, unsaleable. In such circumstances arrangements are generally made for the return of the foodstuff to the manufacturers or wholesalers for re-processing, salvage or other disposal.

When the foodstuff is found to be unfit for human consumption, it is condemned and voluntarily surrendered to the Inspector who arranges for its disposal and destruction.

Foods Condemned and Surrendered

		<u>Weight(approx)</u>
19	tins Canned Meat	102 lbs
63	" " Vegetables	75 "
5	" " Fish	5 "
48	" " Fruit	103 "
11	" " Milk	6 "
6	" " Soup	6 "
3 cases	Fruit	86 "
10 bags	Carrots	112 "
	Margarine	19 "
	Butchers Meat (ex canteens)	70 "
		<u>Total Weight 584 lbs.</u>

Disposal of Condemned Food

All condemned meat and offal is stained with a special green dye, and when suitable, is allowed to be used for animal feeding after sterilisation.

When unsuitable for such purpose it is either burnt or dealt with like other unsound food, being collected and conveyed in the Public Health Department van to the Council's refuse tip where it is suitably disposed of by burying under supervision.

13. FOOD PREMISES

Much time was spent during the year in the administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

In general, shop-keepers, canteen proprietors and others connected with the supply of food have co-operated well with the Public Health Department, and food premises in the District have been improved and brought up to quite a high standard.

The small, but often well-stocked general provision shop does present a problem, particularly when lack of space makes it difficult to move stock in order to carry out improvements by way of re-decoration and re-surfacing of fittings, counters, walls and floors, but nevertheless the owners of such shops have made remarkable effort with most creditable results.

Many shop-keepers have installed low temperature display cabinets in addition to refrigerators for safeguarding perishable foods, and the increasing demand for frozen foods is evidenced by the number of such cabinets being installed in food shops.

Difficulty has been experienced in the provision of adequate hand-washing facilities in small food delivery vans, particularly where such unwrapped foods as meat and fish are cut up and sold from the vans. An endeavour is being made to secure the installation of portable washing units in such food vehicles.

The Regulations prohibit persons from smoking whilst handling food, and although this is, in the main, observed by persons engaged in the preparation of food, nevertheless habit dies hard, and those engaged in the sale of fruit and vegetables and the delivery of bread must realise that not only is it a most unhygienic habit but also an offence to smoke whilst so engaged.

Inspection of Food Premises

	Visits Issued	Notices comp- lied	Notices recd	Improve- ments carried out
Dairies & Milkshops	40	0	-	-
Milk Vehicles	52	0	-	-
Bakehouses	21	1	1	5
Butchers Premises	67	6	5	15
Fried Fish Shops	11	3	2	4
Icecream Premises	144	0	-	-
Food Shops	160	55	20	61
Cafes, Canteens, Kitchens	66	21	9	9
Licensed Premises	58	18	13	14
Food Stores	9	0	-	-
Food Vehicles	11	2	2	10
	639	106	52	118

Improvements carried out under Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 included the following items:-

Regulation 6 Counters and shelves surfaced
 " 14 Sanitary conveniences provided with adequate lighting.
 " 16 Wash-hand basins with hot water provided
 " 17 First Aid material provided
 " 18 Accommodation for clothing provided
 " 19 Sinks with hot water provided
 " 21 Adequate ventilation provided
 " 23 Floors made non-absorbent and washable
 " 23 Walls and ceilings tiled and painted
 " 24 Suitable refuse bins provided
 " 26 Stalls (Food Vehicles) Name and address: cleanliness and repair
 " 27 Stalls (Food Vehicles) Meat and fish - protection
 " 28 " " " Hot water, soap, washing equipment provided.

14. HOUSING

The information relating to new houses, Council houses and re-housing has been obtained from other Departments.

HOUSES IN DISTRICT (corrected to 31.3.57)

Total Number of Occupied Houses	-	14,645
Total Number of Council Houses	-	1,802
Number of Pre-war Council Houses	-	444
Number of Leicester Corporation Houses	-	192

NEW HOUSES

	Council	Private Enterprise	Leicester Corporation (in District)	TOTAL
Houses completed during year	20	476	192	688
Houses in course of erection at end of year	10	565	544	1119
Number of Post-War Houses completed	1311	2611	192	4114

COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS

Number of Applicants on List at end of year	149
Additional number on Slum Clearance List	141
Number of New Applications during year	52

INSPECTION OF HOUSES during year

Houses inspected for housing defects	315
Inspections made for such purpose	489
Houses inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations	90
Houses found to be unfit for habitation	25

CLEARANCE AREAS

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Persons Displaced during year</u>
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Demolished during year	8	39
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Official Representation was made
during the year in respect of 2
Clearance Areas:

Main Street, Glenfields, Clearance Area No. 8	- 4 houses
Moores Lane, Enderby Clearance Area No. 9	- 5 houses

Clearance Area No. 8 was confirmed
by the Minister during the year.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Persons Displaced during year</u>
Demolished during year	17	19
Closed in pursuance of an Undertaking given by owners and still in force	2	4
Closed during year (Local Government (Misc. Prov) Act) (Housing Act 1957)	14	44

Reports were made in respect of 25 unfit houses and
subsequent action taken under the provisions of
Section 16 Housing Act 1957 during the year, resulting in

7 Demolition Orders

17 Closing Orders

being made, and

1 Undertaking being accepted.

HOUSING REPAIRS during year

Informal Action

Unfit or defective houses rendered fit as result of informal action	84
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In addition 29 pre-war Council houses were re-conditioned and improved up to modern standard, with direct labour by the Surveyor and Architect's Department.

Statutory Action

1) Public Health Acts

Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.

3

2) Housing Act

Houses made fit after service of formal notices

7

(Sections 9 - 16 H.A. 1957)

RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES with Improvement Grants - Housing Act 1949

After a temporary suspension from November 1955 the Council recommenced the making of Improvement Grants to owners for the reconditioning and improvement of houses in 1957.

Number of Applications received during year	74
Number of Applications approved	68
Number of Applications refused	4 *
* 1 Withdrawn: 1 deferred.	
Number of Improvement Grants made	19

OVERCROWDING

Houses overcrowded at end of year	0
Cases of overcrowding relieved during year	2
Persons concerned in such cases	11

THE RENT ACT 1957

In July, the Rent Act 1957 came into operation. The Act allows the landlord to increase the rent, but the tenant may require necessary repairs to be carried out. Should the landlord not agree to deal with the specified repairs, the tenant may apply to the Council for a Certificate of Disrepair. Before issuing such Certificate, the landlord is advised of the intention of the Council to issue such Certificate and he may within a period of three weeks undertake to carry out the repairs within six months; if such undertaking is accepted, the Certificate is not issued.

Number of Applications received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair	31
Number of Undertakings received from Landlords	16
Number of Certificates of Disrepair issued	14
(One application was withdrawn, the tenant removing from the house).	

SLUM CLEARANCE PROGRAMME

In 1955, the Council submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government a draft Slum Clearance Programme to deal with 332 unfit houses within a period of 5 to 8 years.

Number of houses dealt with

1955	-	45
1956	-	54
1957		
Houses in Clearance Areas	9	
Individual Unfit Houses	25	34
		133

Due to financial restrictions and high interest rates, the Council decided in 1957 to restrict the new Council house building programme, with the result that there was a corresponding slowing down of the Slum Clearance Programme.

Nevertheless, although only 20 new Council houses were completed during the year, 39 families were re-housed from unfit houses into Council houses, as a result of Council houses becoming vacant.

In two parishes in particular, Whetstone and Countesthorpe, the Slum Clearance Programme is very much behind, and it is to be hoped that circumstances will soon permit the Council to proceed with roads, sewers and houses on the sites already available in these parishes.

REPAIR and RECONDITIONING of HOUSES

It is regretted that under present conditions it appears to be impracticable to bring about the repair and reconditioning of unfit and substandard houses on anything like the scale that was achieved in pre-war years.

With the emphasis on Slum Clearance, there is a tendency to neglect the other important side of improvement of housing conditions, the repair, preservation and improvement of existing sub-standard houses.

Statutory provision is made for the repair of unfit houses under Section 9 of the Housing Act whereby, if the Council are satisfied that a house is unfit for habitation and can be made fit at reasonable cost, they must serve a Notice upon the owner, requiring him to execute such specified works within a reasonable time to render the house fit for habitation. Should the owner fail to do the work, the Council must do so in default.

Up to the present, since 1939, in the majority of cases, the cost of repair and works of improvement to an unfit house, compared with the value of the house based on rental return, has been unreasonable, and accordingly very little has been done in the repair of houses by action under the provisions of Section 9 of the Housing Act.

The Council has made use of the alternative Section 16, where, being of the opinion that the house is incapable of being rendered fit at reasonable cost, have served notice upon the Owner giving him the opportunity of submitting a proposal for the carrying out of works of repair as an alternative to demolishing or closing the house. It is significant that only in one or two exceptional cases has the owner elected to carry out the works.

With the operation of The Rent Act 1957, more repairs are now being carried out, rents are being increased to a more economical level, and with the corresponding increase in the value of tenanted houses it may be possible once again to consider the use of Section 9 of the Housing Act to enforce the necessary works to remedy defects in unfit houses and so render them fit for habitation.

It would appear that the standard of fitness obtainable by action under the Housing Act 1957, is much below the standard laid down for the reconditioning of a house with the aid of an improvement grant under the Housing Act 1949. Whereas a fixed bath, hot water supply and indoor W.C. are considered essential under the 1949 Act, the lack of such amenities is not to be taken into consideration in dealing with a house under the 1957 Act.

With the introduction of Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949, it was hoped that owners of tenanted houses would be induced to bring them up to a proper standard, but after eight years of operation, it seems that this scheme has failed to achieve its purpose, for the majority of applications for grant come from owner-occupiers who benefit considerably by the scheme.

There is no doubt that lack of capital has prevented many landlords from taking advantage of the Improvement Grant Scheme. It must be appreciated that the owner of a tenanted house has still to bear the whole cost of repairs together with at least half the cost of the improvements and in many cases the smaller landlords cannot find the necessary capital to participate in the scheme.

One wonders if a more realistic approach should be made to deal with this problem, and instead of a grant being made, a low interest loan made available over a period of 15 years to the owner of a tenanted house to cover the total cost of the works of repair and improvement. For a reconditioned house with necessary amenities, tenants would pay the increased rent to cover the repayment of the loan, and the owner would have an improved and well repaired house as an asset.

15. MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936, the Council have issued licences to 23 occupiers to station and use for habitation their caravans in the District.

In order to preserve the amenities of the District, an applicant for a licence is first of all required to obtain Planning Approval from the County Planning Authority to use the site for the stationing of a movable dwelling thereon, and then, subject to water supply, drainage and other sanitary facilities being provided, the necessary licence is issued by the Council yearly.

An application to establish a caravan site in Littlethorpe was refused by the County Planning Authority in 1957. As the result of an appeal by the applicant, an Inquiry was held and eventually the Minister allowed the appeal but restricted the area of the caravan site.

Consequently the owner of the site was advised of the requirements of the Council for the issue of a licence under the Public Health Act.

The requirements included the limitation and density of caravans on the site; provision of water supply; adequate drainage and water-closet accommodation, and the laying of proper roads and paths, etc.

Although work was commenced to provide such facilities, such was not completed by the end of the year, and the issue of licence has been withheld.

The need for the exercise of careful control is stressed to prevent an excessive influx of caravans into the District which could not only be detrimental to the amenities of the area, but could give rise to most unsatisfactory conditions unless proper facilities were provided.

16. FACTORIES

Although designated a Rural District, many of the villages in the District are urban in character, and a considerable number of industries are established therein.

The number of factories entered in the Register at the end of 1957 was 134 comprising the following industries:-

Boots and Shoes	Hosiery
Leather dressing	Knitwear
Leather washers	Dyeing
Toe Puffs	Bedding & Upholstery
Electrical Components	Cardboard Boxes
Photographic Equipment	Food Preparation
Light & General Engineering	Joinery and Sawmilling
Motor Vehicles Repair	Artificial Stone, Concrete Products
Coach Building	
Bricks and Tiles	Concrete Pipes
Stone Quarrying	Sand Quarrying
Building Construction	Civil Engineering

Factories Acts 1937 - 1948

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without Mechanical Power	6	6	-	-
Factories with Mechanical Power	108	45	4	-
Other Premises included under Act	20	20	1	-
TOTAL	134	71	5	-

In general, the sanitary conditions in the factories in the District are good. Particulars of defects found are set out as follows:-

Cases in which defects were found

	Found	Remedied	Referred		Prosecution Cases
			To H.M.I.	From H.M.I.	
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences	-	-	-	-	-
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	7	5	-	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	7	5	-	1	-

Outworkers

Section 110, Factories Act, 1937 requires the occupier of every factory to send to the District Council during the months of February and August each year, copies of a list showing all outworkers so employed by him during the preceding six months.

The lists received show that various firms in the District, as well as the City of Leicester and Urban Districts of Hinckley, and Wigston, mostly engaged in the making of wearing apparel, employ outworkers residing in the Blaby Rural District.

No case of infectious disease was noted at any of the addresses of these outworkers, and no case of work in unwholesome premises was noted.

Outworkers - August Return 1957

Nature of Work	Outworkers employed by firms in District	Outworkers employed by firms outside District
Wearing Apparel		
Hosiery	13	95
Boots and Shoes	8	10
Knitwear	19	23
Gloves	0	11
Clothing	4	6
Total	44	145
Umbrellas	0	1
Embroidery	0	2
Total	44	148
TOTAL		192

There were no cases of firms in the District defaulting in sending lists of outworkers to the Council.

16. MISCELLANEOUS REGISTERED and OTHER PREMISES

Common Lodging Houses	-	0
Offensive Trades	-	0
Canal Boats	-	0
Swimming Pools	-	0
Pet Animals Act 1951	-	0
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	-	1
Knackers Yards	-	0
Cinemas	-	2

17. STORAGE OF PETROLEUM

All places where petroleum spirit and inflammable petroleum-based mixtures are stored are controlled by the Council by the issue of annual licences under the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act.

In the interests of public safety and fire prevention, the installation of underground petrol storage tanks and of overground storage of petroleum mixtures have now to conform to high standard specifications.

Sixty-nine licences were issued in 1957 in respect of storage in underground tanks at 27 petrol-filling stations, and 42 private petrol and petroleum mixtures stores.

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